

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3477

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14550

E.O.11652:GDS  
TAGS:EEWT, CASC, UR, US  
SUBJECT:CRAWFORD ARREST

REF: STATE 158444

1. E/C COUNSELOR MET WITH IBM TRADE DEVELOPMENT S.A.  
PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER BRADLEY LESHER JUNE 22 AT  
LATTER'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS CRAWFORD CASE. LESHER, WHO  
IS RETURNING HERE FOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
MEETING JUNE 26-27, CAME TO MOSCOW FROM PARIS SPECIFIC-  
ALLY TO HEAR ABOUT CRAWFORD ARREST FIRST-HAND AND ALSO  
ATTENDED SESSION IN USCO JUNE 20.

2. COUNSELOR APPRISED LESHER GENERALLY OF RESPONSE,  
AS KNOWN TO US, BY TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL,  
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER AND DEPARTMENT TO THE CRAWFORD  
ARREST, STRESSING THAT (A) WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT  
THAT CRAWFORD WAS MORE THAN UNLUCKY VICTIM OF  
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED SOVIET ACTION; (B) THE CASE HAS  
SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS IN THE USSR;  
(C) CRAWFORD'S FATE CAN BE SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCED BY  
REACTION OF AMERICAN CORPORATIONS; (D) IT IS IMPORTANT  
THAT AMERICAN CORPORATE EXECUTIVES ENGAGED IN TRADE  
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WITH THE USSR UNDERSTAND THE CASE AND BRING THEIR  
CONCERN TO THE ATTENTION OF SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS, BOTH  
DIRECTLY AND THROUGH TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

3. LESHER SAID IT WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT TOP  
LEVEL AMERICAN CORPORATE EXECUTIVES SHOULD KNOW FACTS OF  
CASE. EFFECTIVE BUSINESS ACTION CAN COME ONLY AT

CORPORATE LEVEL, NOT FROM ANY BUSINESS VOICES IN MOSCOW. UNFORTUNATELY, THE EXECUTIVES WHO MAKE THE DECISIONS ARE FAR REMOVED FROM MOSCOW SCENE, DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SOVIET ENVIRONMENT AND PRACTICES AND ARE AS LIKELY AS NOT TO CONCLUDE THAT CRAWFORD IS "GUILTY" OF CHARGES, LESHER SAID. HE THOUGHT THAT TOP AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TEND TO UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTY AND UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF FOREIGNERS IN THE SOVIET UNION. ESPECIALLY IN PRESENT INTROSPECTIVE ATMOSPHERE IN U.S., THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE EASILY PERSUADED BY SOVIET LINE THAT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN MUST OBEY SOVIET LAW, THAT CRAWFORD WAS A TRANSGRESSOR, ETC. LESHER THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. FIRMS TO GET THE TRUTH ACROSS TO THEIR CORPORATE EXECUTIVES, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT THEMSELVES KNOW HOW THE EXECUTIVES OPERATE. HENCE, EDUCATION PROCESS MAY BE A DIFFICULT CHALLENGE. LESHER SAID THAT HE FELT AMERICAN CORPORATIONS COULD ACT MOST EFFECTIVELY THROUGH TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, WHERE HAROLD SCOTT HAD ALREADY TAKEN UP CASE. COUNSELOR SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS NONETHELESS IMPORTANT THAT CORPORATIONS DOING BUSINESS WITH SOVIETS MAKE KNOWN THEIR OWN VIEWS TO THE COUNCIL, AS WELL AS TO THE SOVIETS, TO KEEP ATTENTION FOCUSED ON CRAWFORD. LESHER AGREED AND SAID IT WOULD BE WELL IF THE LETTER FROM I-H CHAIRMAN MCCORMACK TO DOBRYNIN WERE TO BE CIRCULATED TO ALL U.S. DIRECTORS OF THE TRADE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

4. ACCORDING TO LESHER, AMERICAN CORPORATE EXECUTIVES WILL NEED A STATEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON CRAWFORD, AT A SUITABLY HIGH LEVEL, BEFORE THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO SEE THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION IN THIS CASE. THE STATEMENT, TO DO THE MOST GOOD, HE THOUGHT, SHOULD BE FORCEFUL BUT NOT OVERDRAWN: IT SHOULD PLACE ON THE RECORD OUR CONFIDENCE THAT CRAWFORD HAD COMMITTED NO SIGNIFICANT, IF ANY, INFRINGEMENT OF SOVIET LAW. ONLY THEN EXECUTIVES MAY HAVE SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE TO GO TO BAT FOR CRAWFORD.

5. LESHER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AT OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE FACTS AT FIRST HAND AND SAID HE WOULD BE DOING WHAT HE COULD TO CLARIFY SITUATION FOR HIS OWN SUPERIORS IN IBM.

6. WE WILL BE SUBMITTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION AND COMMENTS ON DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE BY SEPTTEL. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARRESTS  
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**Draft Date:** 23 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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